

Before the
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON DC 20268-0001
August 7, 2012

Comment to the response of The United States
Postal Service to order no. 1366

Docket No. MC2012-26

THE MAIL CENTER

The enhanced PO Box services currently being offered by the Post Office create a competitive product with an unfair competitive advantage. We are a small neighborhood business that has been providing private mailbox (PMB) services for over 30 years. These enhanced services will have a negative impact on our sales as PO Box enhancements become fully implemented and general knowledge.

The enhanced PO Box services currently being offered that I oppose include:

- a. Offering PO Box renters the use of the Post Office's street address for PO Box addressing
- b. Removing the PO Box designation when using the street address & instead using "#".
- c. Offering PO Box renters email notification of mail delivery.
- d. Offering PO Box renters the ability to receive packages from private carriers.

These enhancements allow the USPS to offer the identical service to Private Mail Boxes (PMB) service while at the same time enforcing their regulations on CMRAs to create an unfair advantage to the USPS in offering these services. These unfair regulatory advantages include, but are not limited to:

- a. The requirement to handle mail for six months for departed or cancelled customers. As a store owner, I have to apply new postage to any item that is forwarded during this term.
- b. The inability of PMB customers to file a change of address form once their contract has ended with the CMRA.
- c. The inability for PMB customers to get the same free forwarding service offered to PO box customers when using either the PO Box or street address.
- d. The requirement for the CMRA to turn over their list of recently past and current PMB customers every 90 days. This can allow the USPS to market its enhanced services directly to our customers.

In addition, the USPS has publically expressed their desire to move from 6-day to 5-day delivery. The USPS has repeatedly stated that as their plan stands today, PO Box customers would continue to receive 6-day delivery while PMB customers would not. Should the Post Office receive this approval, they would gain yet another unfair advantage.

It is unreasonable to ask small businesses like us to compete with the Post Office when they give themselves regulatory advantages on like services and products. When the Post Office first sought to move PO Box service from the Market Dominant to Competitive category, no mention was made of adding any enhancements. These enhancements change the basic product, and when combined with the current CMRA regulations, create a distinct and unfair competitive advantage for the USPS.

I respectfully request that the Commission advise the Post Office to cease offering these PO Box enhancements as soon as possible. That failing, I would respectfully request that the USPS "level the playing field" by scrapping the current CMRA regulations.

Yves Melanson
Owner
The Mail Center
August 7, 2012